

## A BEAU FOR KITTY-CAT

By MARTHA WILLIAMS

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"That! I knowed we'd better shoo that old rooster clean away. Now he's done crowed right at the door, somebody's shore ter come—and ketch us right in the thick o' peach-dryin'." Mrs. Beech said plaintively to her daughter Catherine. They were under the big oaks in the back yard, peeling for the life and cutting off the sweet, yellow peach-flesh in deep, thick "cups."

"Thus it dried richly flavored. Other neighbors might slice their fruit, or cut it any way—Mrs. Beech always stuck to cups. She likewise refused to dry aught but the big yellow clingstone fruit, as sweet as sugar, especially when one waited until it was dead ripe on the trees."

"I don't skeered over company," Catherine said smiling. "Everybody in hollerin' distance has been and been and been. And the circuit riders' down yonder end o' the county—then it's a full month too early for candidates to be ridin'."

"Don't keer if it is—somebody'll come. I never knowed it fall—the rooster sign," Mrs. Beech said doggedly. Her son Tug, who came from the orchard with a fresh basket of fruit, added teasingly as he set it down:

"It'll be some o' your beaus, Kitty-Cat—you got sech a terrible many o' 'em I don't hardly see how we'll ever git anything done."

Catherine flushed deeply, but tried to laugh—she was nineteen and had never had a beau. Yet she was not ugly, nor awkward, nor a shrew.

Penny and Jincy, the cousins, she came between in age, were both married, and even Ellen-Lou, Uncle Ben's girl, only rising fifteen, engaged. It was hard to be set down almost before



"Somebody's Shore Ter Come."

she came to herself a full-blown old maid. But that seemed inevitable—already people talked of her when a likely widower developed as one who would make a mighty good stepmother. More than that, she had twice been sent for to help bake wedding cake. Her mother said with a sigh if it happened again Catherine's fate was sealed—she'd never know the sign to fall—bake cake for three wedding's, you'd never go to your own.

"Maybe you will see somebody pass," Tug added magnanimously, again shouldering his basket. "Up high in the tree I seen er whole passel o' men yan side the parster—no they ain't ridin'—jest hoppin' erbout and stickin' down sticks and doublin' over like they was a lookin' fer pins and needles."

"I hope they ain't up to no meanin'—conjurin' net nothin'." Mrs. Beech said anxiously. "But ef it ain't that, what in the name o' peace can it be?"

She was soon to find out. The surveyors, out locating tentatively a new railway cut-off, came upon her around eleven o'clock, begging and praying for dinner. Five men, young and hungry, were rather formidable—still Mrs. Beech never let any hungry soul get away.

She whirled in and, with Catherine's help, set out such a meal with twelve o'clock as made those who ate it her bond slaves. After a camp breakfast, ham, fried chicken, black-eyed peas, roasted ears, crisp cucumbers and squash mashed in butter and cream were beyond nectar and ambrosia.

Top these off with peach cobbler, very crisp as to crust, very rich and sweet as to filling, and gorging was inevitable. After the gorging the men lay at ease in the shade, smoking, saying little, but looking gratefully at their hostesses.

Thus lying, embarrassment fell upon them. They had meant to pay well for what they got; now the longer they talked or listened to the two women the more impossible became the offer of money. The Beeches were so simply, so joyously hospitable, so eagerly kind, their guests felt instinctively the offer of money would hurt them.

But to go away without making some return was equally impossible. Once Teton, the head surveyor, thought of suggesting that the cut-off, almost sure to come through the out-pasture, might mean a round price to the Beeches for its right of way. But that seemed rather low—as if he hinted at payment through favors to come,

Whispers went about from one to another, behind the backs of hands, or under the pretense of filling pipes from a common pouch. They established the fact that all five agreed—a money offer was out of the question, yet something had to be done.

At last Tug had a brilliant idea—namely, to take Tug along when they left upon plea of needing guidance, and send back by his hand either an honorarium fitting the case or an information that the Beeches would get a little later, something more substantial than thanks. The rest agreed, still in whispers, that it was a way out. They were young fellows all, and gentlemen all, therefore they stared at Catherine only when she was looking the other way.

She was not strictly pretty, but there was classic grace in her length, her poses, the turn of her head, with its crown of heavy plaits, even in the simple lines of her blue-checkedingham frock. Anderson looked at her least of all—he was the youngest of them, just twenty-one and out of school. After each look he turned away his head and puffed hard, as though trying to settle a perplexing problem.

All things end—even after-dinner rests. By three o'clock the party was away, Tug walking proudly with it at Tug's elbow. Tug drew him out adroitly. Inside of ten minutes he knew there was no pinch of poverty in the Beech homestead, neither any great lack of ready money. He gathered also that Tug owned in full the family feeling of hospitality.

Boy that he was, he said gayly all of them must come again—come to stay, if the railroad were built that way—and run in whistles if it went five miles off. "All you'll get'll be good beds and enough to eat—sech as it is." He added: "But mammy cooks right good—"

"Indeed she does," came in chorus from the gang. Tug smiled. "You oughter eat with us when she has a chance to show what she can do," he said. "Today she's just hustled up not much more'n a snack for you-all."

Further questions elicited that Tug had already a gun, a watch—beholden both from granddaddy—a saddle and saddle horse; also that he "didn't keer fer firecrackers and sech—mammy was so pizen 'fraid o' 'em." Any personal benefaction being thus estopped, in despair Tug burst out: "Say, Tug, what does your mammy want the very worst? We are not trying to pay—but she saved our lives—almost—we were hungry enough to eat each other—and now we shan't be hungry for a week. We're grateful; we want to send her something. Tell us—there's a good fellow—just what she had rather have?"

Tug stared, flushed, turned away his head and shifted on his feet. After a minute he said, very low, almost as though crushed by the saying: "Wish ter patience ye hadn't asked me—but mammy says I must always tell the truth. She don't r'ally want but one thing in the world—that's a beau, a business beau, fer Kitty Cat—and I don't reckon you could send her that!"

His tone was wistful—so wistful nobody laughed. Instead, all eyes went significantly to young Anderson. After a long look at him Tug said, pressing Tug's hand: "Yes, we can—but you mustn't say a word about it—not till after the wedding."

"I won't," Tug promised. And, truly, he never did.

The Country Editor.—Everybody has written about the trials and tribulations of a country editor, but nobody has ever written about his joys.

He stands ahead of the preacher, the lawyer and the public speaker, because he never talks to empty benches, but speaks in all the homes where his paper goes. He never makes impromptu speeches which generally disgust the audience, but writes with deliberation and premeditation. The preacher's influence for good seldom reaches further than his congregation, while the editor's field for good reaches all the congregations in the county. The lawyer makes a good speech in the courthouse and only one or two hundred persons hear him, but when the editor writes a good editorial it is copied in the various papers in the state.

The editor distributes more flowers than a florist and he asks nothing in return for them but thanks. The editor has an opportunity to do the individual citizen a service, and he never hesitates to do it if consistent with his obligations to the public. The editor has the greatest opportunity to convert men and women to his way of thinking; on all public questions he thinks right. As the lighthouse on the shore warns the ships from the rocks the editor can warn the public from frauds and fakers. The editor has the greatest opportunity to protect society from evil by standing for the law and creating public sentiment for it.

The editor never tires of boosting his town and county, and if both do not grow it is not his fault. He helps the deserving young men with words of commendation and restrains the old by words of warning. His field of usefulness is broader than any one else in the community, and if he does not get any returns for his efforts for settlement he has a sufficient reward in seeing things get better. He rejoices in his opportunity for service to his fellowman, his town and his country, and goes on his way rejoicing, whether or not he gets any returns for it.—Elizabethtown News.

—Australia claims the distinction of having fired the first British shot in the World war, when in 1914, the gun crew of the fort at Queenscliff, overlooking the harbor at Melbourne, fired a projectile across the bow of a German merchant ship, which was steaming out of the harbor just as war was declared. The ship's crew finally surrendered.

## LOCAL LACONICS

(Continued from Page Four.)

Carolina Cotton association. Meetings were held Wednesday at Rock Hill and at Rock Hill yesterday. Three meetings were scheduled for today, the first at Sharon, the morning, the second at Hickory Grove this afternoon and a third at McConellsville tonight. Prof. Bramlett was accompanied today by Dr. J. B. Johnson, president of the South Carolina association; John R. Blair, county farm demonstration agent and Mr. R. S. Poag of Catawba township.

Miller School to Rebuild. Preparations are being made to rebuild immediately the Miller school building in Bethel township, which was destroyed by fire last Monday afternoon just after school had been dismissed for the day. The understanding is that the new building will be erected on the site of the old.

Tenant House Burned. Fire of unknown origin at a late hour Tuesday night destroyed a tenant house on Mr. S. B. Pratt's McKnight place about five miles southwest of Yorkville. The house was occupied by Will Moore a colored man and his family. They lost practically everything they had.

Yorkville-Rock Hill Road. The Yorkville-Rock Hill road, especially between the W. J. Miller old place and Winthrop college, was in real bad shape during the early part of the week. The surface had been "scuffed" and a rain following shortly thereafter served to soften the surface under the heavy travel; but vigorous scraping and dragging has helped the road wonderfully.

Mrs. Dunlap in a Wreck. Mrs. Crawford Dunlap, compulsory school attendance officer for York county was bruised this morning when the Ford in which she was traveling to Sharon was struck by a large car occupied by two men en route to Yorkville and her car turned over.

Turn-over of the kind in which Mrs. Dunlap was involved is not unusual outside the eastern limits of Sharon where John A. McGill suffered a broken leg some time ago. The larger car coming at a rapid rate struck Mrs. Dunlap's car hurling it into a ditch and demolishing it according to reports. The big car didn't stop. Mr. J. N. Russell of Sharon N. 1 happened along a short time later and picked Mrs. Dunlap out of the ditch and carried her to Sharon where it was found that she was not seriously hurt.

STOPPAGE OF WASTE.

Legislative Committee Promises Reduction of Taxation.

Reduction of the state tax levy by at least one-third is to be the major proposal of the joint legislative committee on economy and consolidation, according to an announcement following a two days' session of the committee in Columbia last week. The meeting was attended by Senator Neils Christensen, chairman; Senators F. A. Miller and W. Fred Lightsey, and Representatives E. T. Hughes and J. E. Anderson. The only member absent was Representative John K. Hamblin, who was unavoidably detained by cases in court.

According to the committee's statement, three different devices will be used to reduce the state tax levy from twelve mills to eight mills or less. The first is to postpone the construction of practically all building operations for a year. The second is to carry on the state government at smaller cost by means of better organization and improved operating procedure. The third is to raise part of the state's money by levies on those now escaping wholly or partially their fair share of the burden.

All told, according to the committee, the general property tax can be reduced over \$2,000,000 as compared with 1921. After considerable discussion the committee came to the conclusion that financial conditions in the state would justify its recommendation to the legislature of deferring practically all building operations by state institutions in 1922. Such action would result in a reduction of the appropriations by approximately half a million dollars. The committee realizes that this means merely the deferring of expenditures which in some cases will have to be made later. In only a few instances, however, was the committee able to learn of conditions making the erection of new buildings at once very desirable and in most cases it was thought no great hardship would result from a postponement of the building programme for one year.

The principal attention of the committee was given to the possibility of saving through the consolidation of state agencies, through better internal organization in departments, and institutions, through the central purchasing of supplies, through improvements in the state's fiscal system, and through better operating procedure. After carefully considering conditions as found in each separate department, commission, board and institution, the committee concluded that the appropriations for 1922 might be decreased by another half million in this manner. In this case the committee points out the savings will not be for 1922 only, but will continue year after year indefinitely. Members expressed the further opinion that closer financial control according to a plan which will be presented to the legislature may be expected to prevent any rapid and unreasonable increase in the cost of state government during the prosperous years which the committee believes will in the course of time be experienced again in South Carolina.

Additional relief should be given to hard pressed tax payers, the committee believes, through changes in the tax system and the committee is working on definite proposals to present to the legislature. These proposals will deal both with new sources of revenue and with means of so shifting the tax burden that it will be more fairly distributed. In particular the committee expects to recommend the adoption of plans to provide for the raising of at least a million dollars from those now

escaping taxation in whole or in part, with a consequent lessening of the levies on those now carrying the whole load.

Before adjourning the committee went over the reports on the various state agencies made by Griffenhagen & Associates, Ltd., of Chicago, the industrial engineers who have conducted the investigation and decided upon the text of the legislature. This report, which the committee expects to put in the hands of the members of the general assembly when they convene in January, will consist of two parts. The first part will embody the committee's conclusions and recommendations and its concrete proposals as to savings, improvements in the fiscal system, and changes in the tax system, which will shift part of the burden to those now paying only small amounts or escaping entirely. The second part will set forth briefly the committee's findings with regard to the conditions in each of the various state agencies.

## MINISTERS' BLAME.

For Perpetuating the Split in Presbyterian Church. Ministers "of a certain type" have been primarily responsible for perpetuating the split between Northern and Southern Presbyterian churches throughout the country—a rift which an attempt will be made to heal in Des Moines, Iowa, in May—Dr. James E. Clarke, of Nashville, Tenn., declared in New York this week.

Dr. Clarke, who is paid secretary of the general board of education of the Northern Presbyterian church, indicated that the coming general assembly might follow the example of Presbyterian laymen of both factions in Kentucky, who have thrown down many barriers in their attempt to lose a breach that had its origin with the civil war and has existed ever since.

The Kentucky laymen, he said, have begun actively to work toward a perpetual union on the grounds that the present state of affairs is untenable. In blaming the ministers for the state of affairs, Dr. Clarke said, he had in mind "those always supporting vested rights," theological and refectional—who always align themselves on the side of reaction against progress, who steadily support what always has been and as steadily oppose the better and wiser things which may and ought to be."

—Cotton ginned prior to December 1, amounted to 7,640,870 running bales, including 121,859 round bales, counted as half bales; 22,058 bales of American-Egyptian, and 2,915 bales of sea-island, the census bureau announced Wednesday. Ginning to December 1, last year, was 10,141,293 bales, including 191,539 round bales, 46,160 bales of American-Egyptian and 965 bales of sea-island. Ginnings by state to December 1 this year were: Alabama 575,310; Arizona 25,715; Arkansas 756,030; California 16,030; Florida 11,724; Georgia 809,815; Louisiana 275,197; Mississippi 730,328; Missouri 66,137; North Carolina 739,035; Oklahoma

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## DOG-TAX DUE.

All Dogs Six Months Old on October 15,

1921, Must Wear Tax Paid Tags.

NOTICE is hereby given that in accordance with the requirements of an act of the 1920 session of the General Assembly, from and after October 15, 1921, all dogs that were six months old or older on that date are liable to an annual tax of \$1.25 per capita.

This tax is collectible and payable at my office during the time prescribed for the payment of other State and County taxes.

For each \$1.25 paid I will issue a proper receipt and numbered brass tax paid tag, the receipt to be held by the party paying the tax and the tag to be worn by the dog, except while in actual use for hunting.

Penalty for failure to secure the tax tag within the time for payment of other State and County taxes is not less than \$5 nor more than \$20, one-half to go to the informer.

Applicants for tax tags, whether in person or by mail, must advise me of the number of the School District in which they reside, or the dog cannot be issued.

Treasurer of York County.

470,532; South Carolina 734,665; Tennessee 261,231; Texas 2,973,572; Virginia 14,952. All other states 6,608. Revised total of the ginnings prior to November 14, was announced as 7,276,863.

—Columbia, December 6: People in South Carolina paid approximately \$4,000,000 to be entertained by the theatres in the state during the fiscal year from July 1, 1920, to June 30, 1921, according to the annual fiscal report of D. H. Blair, internal revenue commissioner, received by W. R. Bradley, acting collector for South Carolina, yesterday. In the report it is shown that in this fiscal year a total of \$365,307.40 was paid in South Carolina on admission taxes to theatres. The federal government collected this figure in addition to the theatre stamp tax imposed upon the theatre operators. A tax of 50 cents on the dollar is imposed on admissions to the theatres and a little figuring will show that the amount of money spent in this form of amusement in the state for the past fiscal year was \$3,653,074, plus the actual tax itself of \$365,307.40, making a grand total of \$4,018,381.40. And, yet the cry of "hard times" is being heard from mountain to sea. Mr. Blair's report also has some other figures interesting to taxpayers. For instance, the kinds collected in South Carolina during the fiscal year 1920-21 reached \$28,610,623.37. Of this amount income taxes brought in \$26,032,367.96, the major part of the grand total. Some other figures are: Estate tax, \$111,071.37; retail liquor dealers' tax \$189.90; whole-sale liquor dealers' tax \$189.90; oleomargarine, \$4,049.56; documentary stamps, \$374,484.81; public utilities, \$144,939.34; insurance, \$41,867.69; excise on manufacturers, \$69,263.82; beverages, \$736,

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90 Acres at Brattonville—Property of Estate of Mrs. Agnes Harris. Will give a real bargain here.

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REAL ESTATE

## REAL ESTATE AGENCY

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97 Acres—New 4 room dwelling; 3 room tenant house; fine orchard and pasture, near Charlotte road, six miles from courthouse.

Seven Room House—On lot 110x270 feet, on King's Mountain street. Water, sewerage, bath and lights. Also lot adjoining, 90x200 feet. Last available vacant lot on this street.

Fifty Acre Tract—Near New Zion church and school; three-room house and barn; lot of good saw timber.

Cottage on Wright Avenue—Five rooms and commodious sleeping porch; electric lights, water and bath. Lot 80 feet front, 230 feet back.

Five Room House—Off King's Mountain street, Yorkville. Lot 90x200 feet, on King's Mountain road.

Tract of 142 Acres—Two miles of Clover. Has a first class neatly painted eight-room house, with good barn and outbuildings; also a well finished four-room house with outbuildings. Entire place is good level land with practically no waste. Will sell as a whole or divide so as to leave settlement developments on either tract.

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—Anderson, Greenville and Oconee counties lead in the number of students enrolled at Clemson, according to figures compiled this week by J. C. Littlejohn, the registrar. Anderson has a total of 83 students, being far in the lead. Greenville is second with 56, while Oconee comes third with a total of 53. Spartanburg, Charleston and York follow in the order named. The enrollment for the present session has reached 994 and is far larger than any previous enrollment in the history of the college. It is expected that the 1,000 mark will be reached immediately after the holidays. By counties the student body is divided as follows: Abbeville 18, Allendale 10, Aiken 15, Anderson 83, Bamberg 12, Barnwell 10, Beaufort 10, Berkeley 7, Calhoun 13, Charleston 44, Cherokee 14, Chester 23, Chesterfield 8, Clarendon 10, Calleton 10, Darlington 17, Dillon 18, Dorchester 5, Edgefield 5, Fairfield 13, Florence 16, Georgetown 6, Greenville 66, Greenwood 31, Hampton 16, Horry 15, Jasper 2, Kershaw 9, Lancaster 10, Laurens 22, Lee 3, Lexington 13, Marion 13, Marlboro 15, McCormick 10, Newberry 27, Oconee 53, Orangeburg 38, Pickens 40, Richland 32, Saluda 7, Williamsburg 12, York 39.

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